

REMARKS

The indication that claim 2 is allowed, and that claims 16-22 and 33 are objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, is acknowledged.

By the above amendment, claims 16-22 and 33 have been written in independent form, thereby placing such claims in condition for allowance. Additionally, rejected to claims 1, 3, 6-12, 15, 23-25, 27, 32 and 34-37 have been canceled.

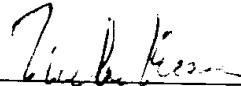
As to the rejection of claims 1, 3, 6-12, 15, 23 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Teragaki et al (U.S. 6,123,431), the rejection of claims 32 and 34-37 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Teragaki et al (6,123,431) in further view of Kashima et al (6,504,589), Ihara et al (5,999,238) and Hashimoto et al (5,956,107); and the rejection of claims 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Teragaki et al (6,123,431) in further view of Shono et al (5,719,649), such rejections have been obviated in light of the cancellation of such claims. Accordingly, comments concerning the cited art is deemed unnecessary.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 3, 16-22 and 33 should now be in condition for allowance, and issuance of Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicant's petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing

of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (500.38128X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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